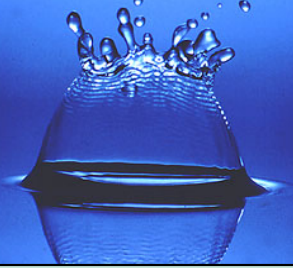


## NRCS Vision

Productive Lands – Healthy  
Environment



## Facts on...

# Mobile Irrigation Labs

## Managing Irrigation Water and Salinity in Colorado

APRIL 2007

### The Natural Resources Conservation Service

**(NRCS)** provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

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*“Improving and sustaining the quality and quantity of Colorado’s water is one of NRCS’ highest priorities and the MIL labs are exactly what Colorado needs to ensure this.”*

**NRCS Irrigation Water  
Management Specialist (IWMS)**

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[www.co.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov)

Mobile Irrigation Labs (MILs) are specialized labs on wheels that evaluate the effectiveness of irrigation water management and salinity management on site.

Information that traditionally takes up to five weeks to gather can now be generated instantly through MILs. The benefit is a savings in water, energy, time, and money for the user.

Colorado has two MILs that will be housed in Lamar and Montrose. NRCS will work in partnership with conservation districts and the conservation board to share not only free technical expertise but to offer public education programs designed to create an awareness of the benefits of water conservation and salinity management.



MILs use a laptop computer and a portable printer to generate instant reports that will help landowners improve irrigation water management.

### Irrigation Efficiency

Colorado’s MILs include devices that will help measure crop conditions, determine actual moisture intake rates and measure salinity levels within soils. The detailed information that is collected will help generate recommendations to landowners that will help:

- ✓ Reduce runoff of fertilizer and pesticides
- ✓ Reduce soil erosion
- ✓ Increase crop production
- ✓ Lower energy costs
- ✓ Reduce plant diseases

### Other MIL Uses

Although farmers and ranchers are NRCS’ primary customer, saving water is everyone’s responsibility.

The MILs can benefit non-agricultural, urban uses to improve water efficiencies.

### How Can I Request a MIL?

Participation in the MIL program is voluntary and free of charge. Individuals or large volume users can request that an MIL team make an on-site inspection.



Helping People Help the Land



For more information contact:  
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